

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, and 15, which are independent, are amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically in Figure 5.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,614,804 to McFadden et al. (hereinafter, merely “McFadden”) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,884,150 to Kanda (hereinafter, merely “Kanda”).

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,754,719 to Nakatsugawa et al. (hereinafter, merely “Nakatsugawa”) and in view of Kanda.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over McFadden and in view of Kanda and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,345,185 to Yoon et al. (hereinafter, merely “Yoon”).

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over McFadden and in view of Kanda and further in view of Nakatsugawa.

Claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over McFadden and Kanda and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,432 to Hao et al. (hereinafter, merely “Hao”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, inter alia:

“wherein the common command includes information indicating a noise level and a resolution level of an image signal, and

wherein each common command is converted into a block-specific command based on a conversion table that associates each common command with an initial value, a predetermined number of functional blocks, and the block-specific command corresponding to each of the predetermined number of functional blocks.” (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that McFadden, Nakatsugawa, Kanda, Yoon, and Hao, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or render predictable the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing is found in the references cited in the Office Action discloses or renders predictable **“wherein the common command includes information indicating a noise level and a resolution level of an image signal, and wherein each common**

command is converted into a block-specific command based on a conversion table that associates each common command with an initial value, a predetermined number of functional blocks, and the block-specific command corresponding to each of the predetermined number of functional blocks," as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 14 and 15, which recite similar limitations with claim 1, are also patentable for similar reasons.

As nothing in the prior art cited in the Office Action cures the above-identified deficiencies, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. As nothing in the prior art cited in the Office Action cures the above-identified deficiencies, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections. As each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

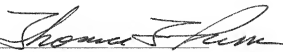
Because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800